

THE DISSEMINATOR

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname**. Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

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AUTOMATION WORKING GROUPS MEETS

The AWG met at the Western Counties Regional Library's branch in Digby on September 19 and were treated to a lively demonstration of how the DRA/MultiLIS Circulation Module is being handled with the simulation of many real life situations. In addition, WCRL demonstrated how it has been able to achieve adding an average of 700 additional items per day to their databank. Attendees were also shown how the Annapolis Valley Regional Library has implemented the Acquisitions Module. A new addition to the group was two representatives from the Centre provinciale de ressources pedagogiques who were also able to benefit from the demonstration and discussion of issues, many of which are still ahead for them.

The new issues discussed at this meeting included: a schedule for RS6000 usage to avoid congestion; use of portable scanners for patron registration; and an introduction to the different options that are available for bringing the mobile branches into the online environment. Reference was made to upgrading of both the RS6000 and the EDnet configuration which should improve access to NcompasS in the next few months. New DRA/MultiLIS licenses have been purchased along with an in-house program implemented to monitor usage by region and which is visible to all license holders.

Also discussed at the meeting were security issues at the Public Access Computers, printers to be used in conjunction with NcompasS, the allocation of recycled computers, and the positive results of being involved in the beta testing of the DRA Z39.50 client software and its use in the first phase of the virtual Canadian Union Catalogue pilot project.

NSLA CONFERENCE REPORT

Over a hundred people attended the Nova Scotia Library Association Annual Conference held this year at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth from October 24-26. One of the highlights included the keynote address from Don Connelly, host of Information Morning on CBC Radio. He spoke about the need for a healthy skepticism on the part of the public for what is labelled news, describing both how manipulating and spontaneous the news media can be.

He was followed by a multitude of good speakers. Judith Hare, CEO of the Halifax Regional Library was the speaker at a session called "Learning to Compete: A Business Approach to Library Management". She discussed how increasing public demands have to be reconciled with shrinking budgets and the challenge in making priorities and constantly re-evaluating services to the customer. A session with a similar theme was delivered by Doug Vaisey, Head of Reference at Saint Mary's University Library, and David Hansen, Halifax Regional Library, who lead a session called "Delivering

the Goods: The Role of Libraries in the Provision of Information to Business". A role for public and academic libraries was put forward that emphasises cooperation between libraries that minimizes fees and increases the need for libraries to garner written support for their work.

Another eloquent plea for cooperation was made by the panellists of a session called "Healthy Communities and Libraries". Guest speakers were Virginia Stoddard, Deputy Director, Western Counties Regional Library, Patti Melanson of the Mainland South Teen Health Centre and Dr. Fred French, Chair of the Central Regional Health Board. Community health boards wish to see a holistic approach to illness and wellness, so they seek active partners who will provide support in other fields that touch on community health such as education, which is where libraries can fit in. Likewise, public libraries and community health clinics are seeing the opportunities for filling in old gaps and keeping up with new developments.

The Children & Young Adult Services/Intellectual Freedom Interest Group Luncheon was well attended and proved very interesting. Four guests discussed how perceptions of community standards of decency brought about demands for tighter control of contents of the Internet, especially in public access points such as libraries and schools. Carolyn Gibson-Smith from CBC's StreetCents program described efforts that were made to keep an teen forum going in an unmoderated format, despite the demands of one media watchdog group that the list be moderated due to perceived bad language and hateful "flame" messages. The CBC eventually decided to moderate their listserv. Michael Colborne of the Halifax Regional Library, Ambrose Prechtl, a Halifax teacher and Sergeant Bill Cowper of the Halifax Regional Police Force also gave thoughtful presentations in this session called "Empowering Parents and the Internet".

Over forty people attended the Saturday night banquet, which was a beautiful buffet. A pianist lent a festive air, as did Helen Hughes and Heather MacKenzie, who spent a good deal of their meal going up to the podium to give out door prizes. Not surprisingly, everyone got something and I found myself with three lovely books on fairy tales. On Sunday morning the new Executive was announced, with Sarah Hainsworth as incoming President. Next year's conference, hosted by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, will be held at the Pictou Lodge Resort. -- Gillian Webster

UPCOMING NOVAKNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE IN BADDECK

The conference, called "Connection to Enterprise: Building the Rural Economy in an Information Age", will be held in Baddeck on November 14 and 15. Sessions will feature rural Nova Scotia success stories, an update and panel discussion on the Nova Scotia communications infrastructure and a keynote address by Dr. Florine Raitano. As Executive Director for the Colorado Rural Development Council, she has been a strong advocate for citizen and grassroots organizations with the object of protecting and enhancing rural communities. For more information and registration contact Anne McCrate at (902) 494-1510. Special rates on hotel accommodations are in effect until November 7.

TRAINING NEWS

On September 15, Johanna Cooper and Bridget Turner visited the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library to update headquarters and branch staff on the progress of MultiLIS automation. A demonstration of the Circulation Module led to a lively question and answer session. Johanna also presented Internet training as well as training for the Public Access E-mail Project. The Internet training focused on an in-depth look at AltaVista, one of the many search engines. Training for the Public Access E-mail Project covered registering for Chebucto Community Net accounts and the basics of using PINE, the e-mail software used by the CCN. Approximately 20 staff attended the sessions.

On September 22, Johanna delivered patron database training for eight staff members at the Cape Breton Regional Library headquarters. On September 23, three CBRL staff members received additional recon training.

Johanna also visited the Western Counties Regional Library headquarters on October 14-16 to provide training in the use of the Acquisitions Module. For the remainder of the current fiscal year, WCRL will be implementing the Acquisitions Module without entering any actual money into the system (i.e. no encumbrances or expenditures). This will eliminate the need to type orders and will give WCRL a head start on fully implementing the Acquisitions Module at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

In other training news, Gillian Webster and Carole Compton-Smith visited the Cumberland Regional Library headquarters on October 7, 1997 to provide some training on Infotrac's General Reference Center and Health Reference Center. Many of the branch staff brought sample questions that could be answered using the databases.

RENOVATION TIME

The building which houses the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Learning Resources & Technology (LRT) is undergoing some renovations to better accommodate service needs. Over the next several weeks, LRT's Media Library and Video Duplication Centre will be relocated from their present location on the ground floor to the second floor near the Reception area. The Technology Recycling Program will take over the Media Library's space on the lower level. In addition, the office of the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations will also move to the ground floor. The building is located at 3770 Kempt Road in Halifax.

STAFFING NOTES

Stacey Cote has recently begun working in the Technical Services section of the Provincial Library on behalf of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library. Stacey was hired through the Nova Scotia Links program and joins other Provincial Library and CEHRL staff involved in the reconversion of the regional library's manual records, a necessary prerequisite to automation.

LINKed

Thanksgiving and Halloween in one month! That's a lot of whooping it up. Here are some sites on topics related to both. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Real Cranberry Home Page

<http://www.scs.carl.eto.on.ca/~palepu/cranberry.html>

- This site includes a host of cranberry recipes, information on cranberry farming, a calendar of cranberry-related events, and, of course, a link to the cranberry enthusiast's friend, Ocean Spray.

World Class Giant Pumpkin Home Page

<http://www.athenet.net/~dang/pumpkins.html>

- A collection of links to information about pumpkin and pumpkin growers, including our very own Howard Dill, Nova Scotia's Pumpkin King.

Phil's House of not so horrible Horror

<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Academy/2679/>

- Info on Halloween including makeup tips, pumpkins and a whole section for the kids. Includes a history of Halloween too.

All Hallow's Eve

<http://www.nothingbut.net/~breezes/halloween.htm>

- This site includes free Halloween graphics you can download, sound files, scary stories, and Halloween crafts. Scary stuff, huh kids! -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. I am looking for a directory of international shipping lines.

A. "KORAB's MARINE LINKS" (http://www.pg.gda.pl/~korab/korab_lnk.html) has a vast selection of marine links including a shipping section titled "SHIPPING, Chartering and Shipbroking AGENCIES and INFO" which includes a link to the "FAIRPLAY Marine Related Companies Database". Also, a search using MetaCrawler (<http://www.lib.ua.edu/mcrawler.htm>) with the keywords "marine shipping" found "Links - Maritime, Nautical, Logistics" (<http://www.webcom.com/~maritime/links/links1.html>). When you click on this, one of the more useful links which you find there is the "World Shipping Directory" (<http://wsd.world.no/>).

Q. Can you suggest some good sites for book reviews on the Internet?

A. Yahoo! has a good list at (<http://www.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/Literature/Reviews/>). At this page you will find a long list of book review sites. Some of the more authoritative are: Booklist Magazine (<http://www.ala.org/booklist/index.html>) - selection of reviews from Booklist, the selection tool for librarians; How Novel! (<http://strobe.lights.com/novel/welcome.html>) - a unique online resource produced by the Saskatoon Public Library that brings together information on Canadian fiction written for young adults aged 12 - 18; New York Review of Books (<http://www.nybooks.com/nyrev/index.html>); Quarterly Black Review of Books (<http://www.bookwire.com/qbr/qbr.html>); and BookWire (<http://www.bookwire.com/>). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two of the latest additions to our collection of professional monographs are featured. These items can be borrowed from the Provincial Library's professional collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1) Brawner, Lee B. **Determining Your Public Library's Future Size: a Needs Assessment and Planning Model**. Chicago: American Library Association, 1996. (Call # Prof. 022.3 Bra)

- The author of this book indicates that many library administrators and trustees are utilizing new marketing and evaluation tools such as needs assessments to facilitate the planning process. The purpose of his book is to provide a detailed look at such a planning process, describing the experience of a typical medium-sized public library as it conducts a needs assessment and prepares a long-range plan with an emphasis on building space needs. There are many tables and figures scattered throughout the book.

2) Helgesen, Sally. **The Web of Inclusion: a New Architecture for Building Great Organizations**. New York: Doubleday, 1995. (Call # Prof. 658.4 Hel)

- In this book, the author presents a new model structure of a modern information age organization in the postindustrial economy. The model is referred to as a "Web of Inclusion". The analogy is that a web is natural, organic and not modelled on a machine. Like a spider web, a "Web of Inclusion" is both a structure and an ever-evolving process, constantly changing to meet the demands of the business environment. Helgesen details the theory behind her new "vision" of a new style of management and describes five organizations that have achieved success through the implementation of this new model of organizational structure. -- Frank Oram

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